

CIA 3-03
Res Smith, Earl, EIT

Front Page Edit Page Other

WEST PALM BEACH,
FLORIDA

M. 38,890
S. 49,141

AUG 25 1965

State Department Aided Castro, Says Smith

By JACK LEDDEN
Staff Writer

Text of testimony given House Un-American Activities Committee members in Washington last spring discloses that former U.S. Ambassador to Cuba Earl E. T. Smith of Palm Beach charged the state department's Latin-American policy makers with supporting Fidel Castro's Cuban revolution.

The testimony, just released, further reveals that Smith was most critical of lower echelons of the State Department setting policies which higher officials later had to live with.

Smith's testimony, made be-

fore a sub-committee headed by Rep. Edwin E. Willis of Louisiana, was in support of a proposed Freedom Academy to train young men in the psychology of cold war and counter-tactics to be used within Communist countries. The State Department has consistently opposed the bill which only recently was approved and recommended for passage by the House committee.

Smith, ambassador to Cuba from 1957 to 1959, was familiar with corruption in the government of Fulgensio Batista as well as the Communistic learnings of revolutionist Castro.

In his testimony before the House committee, Smith said in part:

"One of the major errors of judgment of doctrinaire left-wing thinkers is their belief that all revolutions taking place throughout the world are either democratic or Communist, and that the U.S. should support, aid, and abet all democratic revolutions. It is not that simple ...

"Many revolutionary groups which call themselves democratic are in reality Marxist oriented or are just the means to satisfy some power-hungry individual. This is what happened in Cuba and this is why the United States was primar-

ily responsible for the success of Castro's Communist revolution, granting that the Batista government was losing strength from within because of corruption.

"I mention Cuba because it serves as an example of what can happen throughout Latin America and why a Freedom Academy is vitally important to the United States."

Smith pulled no punches in tagging secondary State Department officials with responsibility for Castro's success. "Castro was not the only alternative to Batista," he declared. "There were alternate situations. The Castro Communist revolution need never

Continued